

TOP SECRET

5 December 1946 OFFICER STAMP

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authorized: ~~TOP SECRET~~

Signed: []

R.O. #491 - Unit E/E

Note: If destruction, cite
reasons and coordinate
with appropriate.

TO: BB8 ONLY
FROM: HH
SUBJECT: EUGEN DOLLMANN and WENNER

1. ADO thought you might be interested in the various cables and negotiations in Washington in connection with 464. We might explain that ADO really carried the ball to support your position and it was with his, General Vandenberg's and General Lemnitzer's cooperation that a satisfactory solution was reached. This letter should be immediately burned after you have read it and no reference should be made to it in any discussions or negotiations by you. This is purely for your personal information.

2. On 21 November 1946, the Secretary of State received a cable from Rome explaining the situation with reference to Dollmann in which they recognize the difficulty of your position (without mention of names) but agree with AFHQ that the latter cannot assume responsibility for protecting "former SS Colonel from being called to testify in Ardeatine trial if court asks".

3. A conference was held with Colonel George Smith who was sympathetic but was of no assistance in securing a satisfactory cable to General Lee.

4. After talking to Mr. Dallas, a memorandum was prepared outlining the position of the various parties in connection with the surrender negotiations. A cable was prepared for General Vandenberg to send to General Lee and was discussed with various people in the Department of State. The Department of State took the position that the records should be kept straight in Italy to the effect that Dollmann and Wenner did participate in the operation but that they did not feel that this government could go along in the protection of the two individuals. General Vandenberg then sent a cable to General Lee, a paraphrase of which follows: The following information is furnished for such use as you may desire. The records of former OSS, together with personal contact with Mr. Dallas, who initiated the German surrender in Italy, indicate proof that Dollmann and Wenner participated in the Sunrise Operation. Major General Lemnitzer, who also participated in negotiations, after examination of records and contact

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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with Dallas, is also convinced of Dollmann's participation. It would appear that present representations by Italians is attempt to undermine Allied position in Italy and in view of the above facts and particularly the repercussions and results that any unjust treatment of these individuals would have on the future long-range United States intelligence activities in Italy, it would appear that Allied interests would best be served if AFHQ would confirm the participation of these individuals and show these individuals appropriate consideration in presenting circumstances. The cable further pointed out that the gist of the communication had been communicated to the Department of State which perceived no objection.

5. General Lee, on 29 November 1946, answered General Vandenberg as follows:

"General Morgan, who handled the surrender negotiations on behalf of Field Marshal Alexander, and General Airey, who with General Lemnitzer represented the Supreme Allied Commander in Switzerland, emphasize that:

Generals Lemnitzer and Airey had the strictest instruction not to offer any form of immunity or reward to any individual and only to operate on a basis of unconditional surrender. They scrupulously carried out their instructions.

General Lemnitzer and Airey had instructions to meet German emissary contacted by them in Switzerland was General Wolff and only Wolff. Those that traveled later to Caserta and signed surrender terms were Lieutenant Colonel Von Schweinitz on behalf of Hietinghoff and Wenner on behalf of Wolff, and only those two. General Morgan handed Schweinitz and Wenner the allied terms of unconditional surrender which were signed by them and no one else. Dollmann did not participate in the negotiations.

The 3 Allied Officers mentioned above were the only individuals authorized to handle the negotiations on behalf of the Supreme Allied Commander and if any promises or undertakings of special treatment were made, they were made by persons not authorized by Supreme Allied Commander to do so and absolutely contrary to strictest instructions, and case were not made by the Allied Force Headquarters negotiating party.

Allied Force Headquarters release to press has already stated that Dollmann did not participate in the negotiations which led to the surrender and even if so, he would not have been given any special immunity. In current trial in Rome, prosecution witness testified Dollmann had not responsibility for Ardeatine Cave murders. Publicity which mostly Italian leftist press and directed towards present government and

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and Rightists as much as towards the Allies has subsided. It is considered that any release now without apparent reason would not help Dollmann and would create confusion with respect to Allied Force Headquarters position.

Allied Forces Headquarters has already informed court holding trial in Rome that Dollmann will be made available as witness if court so requests. If Italians hold further trial to pass justice on lesser German officials implicated in Ardeatine Caves murders, Italian court may well request Dollmann as witness and effort to implicate him may be undertaken by Italian prosecution. Leftist, particularly Communist, press has already alleged Dollmann responsible for Ardeatine murders. Since it is now known that Dollmann is held in United States custody, it would place Allied Force Headquarters in untenable position morally should it refuse request from Italian court that Dollmann testify.

Propose therefore that Dollmann be retained in United States custody until present and future Ardeatine Caves trials have been completed. It is then planned with concurrence of Chief External Survey Detachment Rome to repatriate Dollmann through normal United States channels."

6. General Vandenberg answered General Lee as follows:

"Greatly appreciate proposed action on Dollmann indicated in last paragraph your cable.

For information only recheck of OSS records here confirms fact that Dollmann did participate in the preliminary phases of the Sunrise Operation prior to the time AFHQ representatives entered Switzerland. On 3 March 1945 OSS intermediaries met Dollmann at Lugano. He was accompanied by Zimmer, Parilli and a representative of the Swiss intelligence office. At that meeting Dollmann claimed he represented Kesselring, Rahn and Wolff. It was suggested to Dollmann that as a test of his authenticity and sincerity he arrange for the release of certain Italian patriots, then in custody of the Germans. The release, which occurred shortly thereafter, included Parri who later became Premier of Italy. On 8 March 1945 Wolff plus Dollmann and others arrived in Lugano for definite talks. Wolff, Dollmann and party then proceeded to Zurich where further discussions with OSS representatives took place.

Records and Mr. Allen Dulles confirm that no immunity in any form was offered to any individual involved in Sunrise.

Interest of Central Intelligence Group is solely to insure that long-range intelligence activities of the United States will be secured."

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